

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 455

S E C R E T USUN 5010

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, AO

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MPLA REP FIGUEIREDO, NOV 4

1. AT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION, AMB SHERER AND MISOFF MET WITH FIGUEIREDO AT UN, AFTERNOON NOV 4.

2. FIGUEIREDO BEGAN BY CONGRATULATING US ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHICH WE, "UNLIKE MANY OTHERS," ARE ABLE TO ENJOY -- A PROCESS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FREE ELECTIONS OF NOV 2.

3. SHERER SAID THAT TWO DEVELOPMENTS NOV 4 HAD LED TO HIS CONTACTING FIGUEIREDO:

(A) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEETING IN THE MORNING WITH GOV SCRANTON, AND

(B) AN INDICATION FROM SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ILLUECA (PANAMA) THAT THE SCHEDULING OF SC CONSIDERATION OF A NEW ANGOLAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS THIS AFTERNOON. (IN FACT, IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED.)

FURTHER, ALTHOUGH WE WERE VERY INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE WITH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES, WE WERE DISCOURAGED BY THE APPARENT LACK OF DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE ON THEIR PART: ANGOLA HAD NOT REPLIED TO THE SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT LETTER, AND WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REACTION FROM THEM TO MR. WISNER'S

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MEETING WITH FIGUEIREDO OCT 12.

4. FIGUEIREDO SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS AND, IN ORDER TO CATCH US UP ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT HOME, WANTED US TO KNOW THAT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SPECIFY NUMBERS, THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA WAS BEING REDUCED. SECONDLY, ANGOLA IS DOING ITS BEST TO HANDLE THE FLOW OF REFUGEES COMING IN. LASTLY, HOLDEN ROBERTO CONTINUED HIS AGGRESSION AGAINST THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT.

5. SHERER NOTED THAT, GIVEN OUR DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE, IT WOULD SEEM CONSTRUCTIVE WERE THE ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES TO REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, SPECIFYING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA, INCLUDING MENTION OF WHATEVER DRAW-DOWN MAY HAVE OCCURRED OR IS LIKELY TO CONCERNING THE CUBANS.

6. FIGUEIREDO REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ONLY RECENTLY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US THIS WEEK. ANGOLANS ALSO WERE INTERESTED IN KEEPING OPEN COMMUNICATIONS AND, WITH THIS IN MIND, HE THOUGHT THAT A VISIT BY THE ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO NEW YORK WOULD BE TIMELY UPON ANGOLA'S JOINING THE UN. FIGUEIREDO OBSERVED THAT OBVIOUSLY SUCH A VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE WERE A US VETO LIKELY. HE CURRENTLY PLANS, HE SAID, TO PRESENT ANOTHER APPLICATION BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK. HE HAS NOT YET DONE SO. SHERER SAID USG COULD OFFER NO INDICATION CONCERNING A CHANGE IN OUR VOTE, BUT URGED FIGUEIREDO TO TAKE UP OUR CALL FOR A DIALOGUE PRIOR TO DEPOSITING A NEW APPLICATION. THERE WERE SEVERAL ELEMENTS WHICH HAD INTERVENED SINCE OUR EARLIER CONTACTS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET-ANGOLAN TREATY: WE WONDER WHAT, FOR INSTANCE, ITS EFFECT WOULD BE.

7. FIGUEIREDO REPLIED OBLIQUELY, SAYING THAT FOLLOWING UN ENTRY, ANGOLA WOULD TAKE "POSITIVE ACTIONS" TO ASSURE THE US OF ITS DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP.

8. FIGUEIREDO CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO ENCOURAGE A MESSAGE FROM HOME, BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS. HE ASKED TO MEET WITH US AGAIN NOV 9 AT 10 AM.

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